

Legislative Research
SAFLL-2
January 1962

Congressional Information

Name: Bush, Prescott - Republican - Senator from Connecticut

Home: Grove Lane, Greenwich, Connecticut

Born: Columbus, Ohio - May 15, 1895

Marital Status: to former Dorothy Walker of St. Louis - 5 children

Military: Captain - Field Artillery (AEF WW I - participated in Meuse Argonne and German Occupation)

Education: Yale University, 1917 (A.B.)

Profession: Investment banker

Elected to US Senate 1952-57, unexpired term. Present term expires 1963

Member: Episcopal Church; US Golf Association; Trustee - Yale University

Committees: Armed Services (Subcommittees: Officer Grade Limitation; Status of Forces Treaty; Aircraft Procurement Reprograming Request; ~~Cold War Menace~~)

Banking and Currency (Subcommittees: Housing; International Finance; Production and Stabilization; Securities)

Joint Economic Committee (Subcommittees: Foreign Economic Policy; International Exchange).

Bases: No major bases

Remarks: Former president of US Golf Association. Captain of Yale's team in 1914. Chairman of USO fund raising campaign in 1943. Known on Capitol Hill as hard worker who pays close attention to his Senate business. Bulk of his experience: world banking and finance. In 1916 saw service with National Guard on Mexican Border, returning to Yale for his senior year, where he was a member of Skull and Bones, Whiffenpoof, and an all-around athlete.

Reorganization -- supported President's Defense reorganization plan/ cosponsored with Sen. Saltonstall S. 3649, administration's bill. Also, introduced his own bill S. 3209, urging single chief of staff. (Congressional Record April 21, 1958 P 6041)

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86th Congress - Comments --

In colloquy with Symington objected to imputation that because he paid attention to Secretary Gates and General Twining and was impressed by the President, that he put money before survival. (Cong. Record February 19, 1960 Page 2722)

Money and Defense -- there's mistaken belief by spending more money we get more defense. Maintains we must determine whether we are getting dollar value. Referred to Defense Procurement Subcommittee (Joint Economic Committee) hearings wherein it is brought out that Armed Forces continue wasteful duplication in procurement and related supply functions. Urged Members to read the report. (Cong. Record April 6, 1960 Page 6877)

February-March 1960 Senate Space and Senate Preparedness Excerpts --

1. Queried Gen. Schriever on status of Hound Dog (P 72)
2. Queried Gen. Power -- airborne alert with respect to parts and crews. (P 96)
3. Asked Gen. White if it wouldn't be advantageous to place additional money with manned bombers because of the positive control factor since President is only one who can release bombs and because warning time of missiles will be so short. (Gen. White: this is one of the key arguments for continuing manned bombers - real answer lies in proper mix) (Page 149)
4. Queried Adm. Burke - vulnerability of aircraft carriers

Fiscal Responsibility -- said: ". . . our military strength is based upon our financial stability and the credit of the US. While appropriating billions for defense, we seem determined to undermine those foundations upon which our defense rests by refusing to exercise fiscal responsibility." (Cong. Record, June 17, 1960 Page 12089)

Frozen Funds -- in reply to adverse comments on S/Def. Gates by Sen. Johnson and others re: frozen defense funds, he reminded Members that the DOD Reorganization Act of 1958 gave the Secretary a greater latitude in use of funds committed to him by Congress -- ". . . he is actually privileged under that act. . . to switch funds from one purpose to another if he thinks the national defense requires it. . . ." (Cong. Record August 11, 1960 Page 1500) Later, on August 26, 1960 during Sen. Symington's comments on defense Sen. Bush referred to remarks by Sen. Johnson -- "The Senator from Texas asked if we could possibly have any assurance that this money would be used. I say that the Senator from Texas gave us that assurance himself on the floor last week when he read a letter from the S/Defense that indicated that \$500 million of the extra \$1,100,000 that was at first withheld had already been committed. . . We wanted to do everything possible to bring about a unification of the Services, and the Senator made an excellent case for it. I do not think the legislation went as far as the Senator or I would have liked to see it go. However, one of the features of the act was to give the S/Defense more authority with respect to disposing of appropriations." (Cong. Record Page 16545)

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87th Congress -- Comments --

Budget -- in a colloquy with Sen. Proxmire (Wis.) he rejected several points recommended in the Samuelson report made to President Kennedy by his economic task force. (Cong. Record January 10, 1961 Page 466)

Senate -- Will seek reelection in 1962.

Excerpts from (April 1961) Hearings - Authorizing Appropriations for Aircraft, Missiles, and Naval Vessels (Senate Armed Services Committee) -

1. Asked Sec. McNamara about the ANP Program. Senator Bush said:
". . . I sometimes have felt myself it has suffered from chronic overoptimism. . . Naturally, we hate to see a big curtailment in our area. But I do not question that you have given it very careful consideration and you have made a proper case for it."
(P 66)
2. Asked the Secretary of Def about retirement and retention of personnel. Secretary Def said he would reexamine entire system and acquaint Committee with the analysis. (P 67 and 68)
3. Also, asked the Sec/D he look into the amount of time required of Academy graduates to serve after training.

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